

The Australian National University

Faculty of Law

and

National Institute of

Social Sciences & Law



Australian Lawyers & Social Change Conference Program & Registration Form



National Museum of Australia, Canberra, 22 - 24 September 2004

Australian Lawyers & Social Change

Thirty years ago, the ANU Faculty of Law held a conference under the banner of *Australian Lawyers and Social Change*, the proceedings of which were published in a book of the same name edited by David Hambly and Jack Goldring. This conference revisits some of those themes and takes a fresh look at the roles of Australian lawyers in the twenty-first century.

The overarching theme of the conference is, what role can and should Australian lawyers play in the continuous improvement of the law and the operation of the legal system? In particular, what role can and should Australian lawyers play in the promotion of law reform and the achievement of social justice? After an initial session focused on the phenomenon of law reform, these questions are asked in turn of the judiciary, the legal profession, and legal educators. Speakers will debate, *inter alia*, the relative merits of different models and conceptions of the law and the legal system: law as, on the one hand, an agent of change, and, on the other, as a conservative influence that provides a natural brake on change.

The four main segments of the conference—law reform, the judiciary, the legal profession, and legal education—each have a plenary session, followed, in the case of the first three segments, by three concurrent 'break-out' sessions. The fourth segment, on legal education, is followed by closing reflections spanning the whole conference. The conference concludes with a practical, hands-on attempt to map the way forward following the discussion and proposals made in the course of the conference.

Established in 1960, the Faculty of Law at the ANU strives for excellence in teaching and research, yet is informed in all of its work by an ethos of commitment to continuous improvement of the law and the operation of the legal system. It does not see this commitment as antithetical in any way to the spirit of free inquiry, and indeed is sponsoring this conference as part of the on-going process of dialogue and debate. You are cordially invited to participate in this debate.

Arrangements

<< Transport

All conference delegates are responsible for their own travel arrangements. Links to a number of air travel and car hire organisations have been supplied on the ALSC website (<http://law.anu.edu.au/alsc>)

<< Accommodation

All conference delegates are responsible for their own accommodation arrangements. Delegates who wish to make use of the offers below should quote ALSC when making a booking. Bookings should be made by 22 August 2004. Please visit the ALSC website for additional options. The Faculty of Law does not guarantee availability of the hotels/apartments mentioned below or on the website. (Quest bookings only should be made through the Faculty of Law.)

Liversidge Court Apts, Liversidge Street, ANU campus
T: 02 6125 1100

- one bedroom apts @ \$96/night

Rydges Lakeside, London Cct, Canberra
T: 02 6243 2222

- superior rooms @ \$150/night

Quest Canberra, Melbourne Bldg, West Row, Canberra
T: 02 6243 2222

- studio apts @ \$132/night
- 1 bedroom apts @ \$148/night
- 2 bedroom apts @ \$183/night

Conference Program

Wednesday 22 September 2004 - Evening reception & registration

Time: 5.30pm - 7.00pm

6.00pm: Welcome to Country by Ngunnawal elder & speeches

Venue: National Museum of Australia Hall

Speaker: **Ronald Sackville**, Justice, Federal Court of Australia

<http://law.anu.edu.au/alsc>

Conference Program (continued)

Thursday 23 September 2004

7.30am - 8.00am: Breakfast at National Europe Centre, ANU

8.00am - 8.10am: Welcome from ANU Vice Chancellor, **Ian Chubb**

8.30am - 9.00am: Registration at National Museum

PLENARY 1: LAW REFORM

9.00am - 10.30am

Chair: Michael Coper, ANU

Speakers:

- **Tim Costello**, CEO, World Vision, Australia
- **Julian Disney**, Director, Social Justice Project, Law Faculty, UNSW
- **Kathy Laster**, Executive Director, Victoria Law Foundation
- **David Weisbrot**, President, Australian Law Reform Commission

10.30am - 11.00am Morning tea

11.00am - 12.30pm **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Session 1: A less white Australia?

Convenor: Jennie Clarke, ANU

Speakers:

- **Samia Baho**, Working Women's Health, Sydney
- **Beth Gaze**, Law Faculty, Monash University
- **Parastou Hatami**, Refugee Advice & Casework Service, Melbourne
- **Noel Pearson**, Director, Cape York Institute for Policy & Leadership, Qld

Session 2: Gender & law reform

Convenor: Juliet Behrens, ANU

Speakers:

- **Jenny Morgan**, Law Faculty, University of Melbourne
- **Zoe Rathus**, Women's Legal Service, Brisbane
- **Boni Robertson**, Director, Gumurri Centre for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Research, Griffith University

Session 3: Poverty & social justice

Convenor: Tony Connolly, ANU

Speakers:

- **Nicola Howell**, Director, Centre for Credit & Consumer Law, Griffith University
- **Denise Scott**, Policy Officer, Australian Association of Social Workers
- **David Tennant**, Director, Care Inc. Financial Counselling Service & Consumer Law Centre, ACT

12.30pm - 2.00pm Lunch (Peninsula Room)

PLENARY 2: THE JUDICIARY

2.00pm - 3.30pm

Chair: Stephen Bottomley, ANU

Speakers:

- **Kylie Burns**, Law School, Griffith University
- **Kathy Mack & Sharyn Roach Anleu**, Magistrates Research Project, Flinders University
- **Ronald Sackville**, Justice, Federal Court of Australia

3.30pm - 4.00pm Afternoon tea

4.00pm - 5.30pm **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Session 1: Criminal justice issues

Convenor: Russell Hogg, ANU

Speakers:

- **Eileen Baldry**, School of Social Work, UNSW
- **Hugh Dillon**, Magistrate, NSW
- **Gail Wallace**, Aboriginal Project Officer, Nowra Local Court

Session 2: Bypassing the courts

Convenor: Simon Bronitt, ANU

Speakers:

- **John Braithwaite**, RegNet, ANU
- **Kathy Mack**, Law School, Flinders University
- **Richard Refshauge**, Director of Public Prosecutions, ACT

Session 3: Using the system

Convenor: Peta Spender, ANU

Speakers:

- **Stuart Clark**, Clayton Utz, Sydney
- **Andrea Durbach**, incoming Director, Australian Human Rights Centre, UNSW
- **David Ipp**, Justice, NSW Court of Appeal
- **Tanya Kovac**, Slater & Gordon, Melbourne

Conference Dinner

Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Venue: Great Hall, University House

Pre-dinner entertainment: Jazz trio

Speaker: **Noel Pearson**, Director, Cape York Institute for Policy & Leadership, Qld

Conference Program (continued)

Friday 24 September 2004

PLENARY 3: THE LEGAL PROFESSION

9.00am – 10.30am

Chair: Richard Refshauge, Adjunct Prof, ANU

Speakers:

- John Basten, QC NSW Bar
- Simon Longstaff, Director, St James Ethics Centre, NSW
- Simon Rice, President, Australian Lawyers for Human Rights
- Nicola Roxon MP, Shadow Attorney-General (Cth)

10.30am – 11.00am Morning tea

11.00am – 12.30pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session 1: Access to justice

Convenor: Daniel Stewart, ANU

Speakers:

- John Corker, Director, National Pro Bono Resource Centre
- Judy Harrison, Director, Clinical Programs, Law Faculty, ANU
- Kathleen McEvoy, Law Faculty, University of Adelaide
- Liz O'Brien, National Association of Community Legal Centres

Session 2: Lawyers as activists

Convenors: Tom Faunce & Hugh Selby, ANU

Speakers:

- Terry Connolly, Justice, ACT Supreme Court
- Fiona Game, Law Student, ANU
- Ritchie Hollands & James Prest, Save the Ridge
- Patricia Randal, Policy Officer, Public Interest Advocacy Centre, NSW

Session 3: Diversity in the profession

Convenor: Hilary Charlesworth, ANU

Speakers:

- Mick Dodson, Law Faculty, ANU
- Margaret Thornton, Law School, La Trobe University
- Sumitra Vignaendra, Judicial Commission of NSW

12.30pm – 2.00pm Lunch (Peninsula Room)

PLENARY 4: LEGAL EDUCATION

2.00pm – 3.30pm

Chair: Michael Coper, ANU

Speakers:

- Richard Johnstone & Mary Keyes, Law School, Griffith University
- Bill MacNeil, Law School, Griffith University
- Anne Macduff, Law Faculty, ANU
- Mike Robertson, Law School, Griffith University
- Lyn Weathered, Director, Innocence Project, Griffith University

3.30pm – 4.00pm Afternoon tea

4.00pm – 4.30pm CLOSING REFLECTIONS

Speaker: Hal Wootten, former barrister, law dean, law reformer & judge.

4.30pm – 5.30pm BRINGING IDEAS TOGETHER

Chairs: Michael Coper & Stephen Bottomley, ANU

5.30pm Conference concludes

Contact details

Conference details will be continuously updated on the conference website (<http://law.anu.edu.au/alsc>), and the organisers may be contacted via the conference e-mail address (alsc@law.anu.edu.au)

Australian Lawyers and Social Change (ALSC) Conference
Faculty of Law
The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200

T: 02 6125 8139
F: 02 6125 0103
E: alsc@law.anu.edu.au
<http://law.anu.edu.au/alsc>



<http://law.anu.edu.au/alsc>